



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,705	01/19/2005	Boon Khian Ching	SG 020015	2626
24737	7590	12/29/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,705

Applicant(s)

CHING ET AL.

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/16/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***SPECIFICATION***

#### ***Headings***

Applicant is asked to take note the preferred arrangement and headings directed to a specification: except for the title, each of the lettered items should preferably be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Cross-Reference to Related Application(s) (if any).
- (b) Background of the Invention.
  - 1. Field of the Invention (or Technical Field).
  - 2. Description of the Related Art (or Background Information or Background Art)
- (c) Summary of the Invention (or Disclosure of Invention).
- (d) Brief Description of the Drawing(s).
- (e) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)
- (f) Claim(s).
- (g) Abstract of the Disclosure (or Abstract).

Providing the above would place the specification in accordance with the suggestions of those portions of MPEP §§ 601 or 608.01 concerning "proper headings".

### ***CLAIMS***

#### ***Summary***

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-6 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3765

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Netten et al. (5,642,579).

Netten et al. teach an electric iron having a housing and a soleplate 2, which includes outlets 20 for steam thereon. A means 10 and 12 is provided for generating steam in a steam generating chamber. Further, the iron is provided with a detecting means or sensor 24 for detecting the presence of an article being ironed by detecting the temperature of the article as the sensor is passed thereover. The detector is connected to a control means 16, which uses the signal taken from the sensor, and controls the amount of steam being formed. Specifically, the sensor produces an article temperature signal and the control processes the signal, which actuates a pump 10 for feeding more/ or less water to the steam generator.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Netten et al. in view of Van Der Meer (6,286,416).

Netten et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Netten et al. teach an iron including a sensor for detecting the temperature of an article being ironed. However, Netten et al. do not suggest the iron as including a spring-loaded contact-element forming part of the detector.

Van Der Meer teaches a steam producing machine usable with a coffee maker and comprising a temperature sensor 28 for sensing a fluid passing therearound. The sensor includes an actuating pin being spring-loaded and when a temperature is sensed, movement of the actuating pin 42 will actuate and contact a switch 35 controlling the turning on and off of the heating element.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the sensor of Netten et al. as including a spring-loaded sensor contacting a switch. Providing such a structure would allow the direct actuation of the pump depending on the article temperature sensed as the soleplate is moved to and fro.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Netten et al. in view of Netten (6,079,133).

Netten et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Netten et al. teach an iron including a sensor for detecting the temperature of an article being ironed.

Art Unit: 3765

The sensor signals a control means for actuating steam generation. However, Netten et al. do not further suggest a motion detector producing a motion signal fed to the control means. Netten teaches a steam iron including a control means 10 which controls the amount of steam produced with respect to a soleplate temperature sensed by a temperature sensor 6. Further, a motion sensor 24 is provided for sensing motion of the iron and feeding that signal to the control means.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the sensor of Netten as including a motion sensor. Providing such a sensor would allow the more accurate controlling of the iron since its heating cycle would be actuated relative to the iron having movement as in during use.

#### ***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

Claims 3-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***PERTINENT CITATIONS***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tomita et al. Illustrate an optical sensor. Ma et al. Illustrate a temperature, pressure, flow rate and steam quality sensor. Har et al. Illustrate a soleplate temperature sensor. Hoefer et al. Illustrate a steam iron including a sprayer for spraying an article being ironed. Smith illustrates an iron including a spring-loaded soleplate.

### ***INQUIRIES***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ismael Izaguirre  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3765